

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/715,816

Examiner

Tianjie Chen

Applicant(s)

KIKUIRI, KATSUYA

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Application filed on 11/18/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - With regard to independent claims 1 and 10, as the closest reference on record, Kikuri (US 6,683,760) shows a magnetic head in Fig. 5 disposed on a rotary cylinder rotatable in a predetermined direction, and having a medium sliding surface substantially flush with a peripheral surface of the rotary cylinder, the magnetic head comprising: a first shielding layer composed of a magnetic material; a second shielding layer spaced from the first shielding layer substantially parallel thereto and composed of a magnetic material; a magnetoresistive element provided between the first and second shielding layers and insulated from the first and second shielding layers by a nonmagnetic insulating layer; and a marker layer disposed on a side of the first shielding layer remote from the magnetoresistive element so as to determine the center in a track-width direction of the magnetoresistive element, wherein the first and second shielding layers and the magnetoresistive element are exposed from the medium sliding surface while being inclined at a predetermined azimuth angle to the predetermined direction, and wherein a major part of the marker layer is disposed inside two imaginary azimuth lines in the track-width direction, the imaginary azimuth lines extending straight in the predetermined direction through both end portions in the track-width direction of the magnetoresistive element, and one end portion of the marker layer are disposed outside the imaginary azimuth lines in the track-width direction; **but fails to show** that both end portions of the marker layer are disposed outside the imaginary azimuth lines in the track-width direction as Application disclosed in Fig. 8.

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- Applicant asserts when the marker layer and the MR element are positioned in such a relationship, the end portions of the marker layer do not exist inside the imaginary azimuth lines A and B. Therefore, the asymmetry (symmetry of the reproduced signal) of the magnetic head will not change in the direction of the track width Tw of the MR element. In particular, when the marker layer is provided substantially parallel to the direction of the track width Tw of the MR element, changes in asymmetry of the MR element in the overall direction of the track width Tw is reduced extremely (Specification, p. 23).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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